

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Please amend Claim 5 as follows:

1. - 4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) An information recording and/or reading apparatus comprising:

a base plate;

a column supported on said base plate and including an upper surface having an opening therein;

a support plate disposed on the upper surface of said column;

a spindle motor having an output shaft perpendicular to said base plate, said output shaft rotatably driving a disk;

a head unit, including a motor and an encoder, supported on said support plate, for determining a position of a recording/reading head of the head unit about a rotary ~~alignment~~ axis parallel to the output shaft of said spindle motor;

a vertical pivot shaft disposed apart from and extending parallel to the rotary ~~alignment~~ axis;

a pivotal mechanism for pivoting said support plate, ~~on which said head unit is supported,~~ about said vertical shaft relative to said base plate, wherein at least a portion of said

head unit; ~~or a support portion of said head unit supported on said support plate;~~ passes through the opening in the upper surface of said column;

a moving stage which mounts said spindle motor; and

a stage driving mechanism for driving said moving stage toward or away from the rotary ~~alignment~~ axis.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)